

## Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, June 31, 1883, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Dr. Alexander Graham Bell. Oakland, June 31st, (1883) My dear Alec:

Thanks for fruit letter and telegram they were all very welcome. I think the letter short as it is rather the most. I so seldom see your handwriting. 900,000 does seem a nice little property and I am thankful we are so well off, but dear, what is the use of all this money if you are not well and strong to enjoy it with me. I do not think you realize how much you are to me, how much I and your children depend on you, and you cannot be yourself, "every inch a man" unless you have "a sound mind in a sound body." So dear do take care of your precious health and strength for the sake of your wife and the helpless little ones who have only half a mother. They need you more and more every day, I am feeling it very keenly just now fresh from a struggle I have not known how to avoid with Daisy. I unfortunately promised Elsie she should sleep with me tonight, I would not have done it except that I didn't want her myself and therefore felt selfish in refusing. I thought Daisy would not mind if she slept with me the next evening, but no, I had a regular time of it. Very likely if I had left here the nurse could have quieted her sooner than I, but I was not willing to raise a storm and then not sooth it, so I waited and finally got her to let me go with smiles and kisses. However I shall not repeat the experiment. Poor little Elsie was very unhappy and wanted to go back to Daisy, but I did not think it right to let Daisy think that Elsie was to give up her fun whenever she cried. Don't you think so?

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By the way I left a letter and parcel addressed to Lady Jones on my secretary, will you please read the note and see if there is anything wrong about "Elsie's Mother" and if not send them both. They have been waiting long for your inspection. Maurice and family are

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not here yet, but a telegram says to expect them tomorrow. We thought they were coming this morning and went to meet them, and the porter of the pullman said that a gentleman answering Maurice's description came to the station at Philadelphia and was much excited not to find his wife there, so we think they may have missed the train. Your father and mother arrived safely and were much pleased that they came by day as they had such a magnificent ride. I bear you are going to New York to meet Louis, I wonder if you will know him, give him my cousinly love. All the family have retired so I also will seek "slumbers chain."

Take care of yourself and take your meals regularly. Tell Maria I telegraphed Sister about her, but got no reply she having left Atlantic City and we had no other address.

Your loving, Wife.